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*Benefits Education and Institutions*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **First New Jersey Lottery CASH4LIFE Top Prizewinners Claim Winning Ticket**

**TRENTON, N.J. (Nov. 25, 2014)** – New Jersey’s first CASH4LIFE Top Prizewinners claimed their ticket at Lottery headquarters. The winners, Joseph Ianiro and John Opaluch from Hasbrouck, shared their winning story with New Jersey Lottery Executive Director, Carole Hedinger, during the claim process. Ianiro enjoys playing lottery and has been doing so for years. But the lucky retail location at which he bought this winning ticket was one that he had walked by for years. “The store used to be a mess until new owners, the Bernice Family, purchased and renovated it,” said Ianiro. Now, Guy Bernice runs Nick’s Quick Stop, 183 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights in Bergen County, and ownership pride is evident in the polish of the lottery display and the cleanliness of the entire store, said Ianiro. A now Nick’s Quick Stop is also a very lucky location.



L-R John Opaluch, Carole Hedinger,  
Joseph Ianiro

Ianiro discovered that he had the winning ticket when they were having their dinner and watching News12 NJ. The anchors were discussing one topic while the winning Lottery numbers scroll appeared on the screen. Ianiro jumped up and began to shout when Opaluch thought he was reacting to the news story. Clarity came when Ianiro said he had won the CASH4LIFE Top Prize.

As is typical when winners first suspect that they won the lottery, nervous excitement sets in. Ianiro went to his game ticket holder and kept pulling out previous draw tickets. “Oh my god, I didn’t play,” he thought. He

regularly plays the same personally significant numbers. He took a deep breath and recalled the conversation he had held with Bernice. The winning ticket was in fact purchased!

When asked what they will do with the \$7 million cash value proceeds of the ticket, an after tax value of approximately \$5 million, Ianiro retold a conversation that he just had with a friend who was celebrating 25 years of being addition free. The friend was saying that if he had ever won the

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lottery he would pay it forward by donating to the addiction services organization that helped him learn to manage his life. Ianiro is going to honor his friend's achievement and make his dreams come true with a donation to the addiction services facility.

In addition, 43,078 other New Jersey Lottery CASH4LIFE players won \$195,541 in prizes ranging from \$2 to \$2,500 from the Thursday, November 13 drawing. The winning numbers were: 07, 08, 16, 49, and 56. The Cash Ball was: 04.

CASH4LIFE tickets are available exclusively in New Jersey and New York. Players select five numbers from a field of one through 60, and then select a "Cash Ball" from a field of one through four. Drawings are held on Monday and Thursday at approximately 9:00 p.m. The next drawing is Thursday, November 27, so perhaps your day will be luckier than your turkey's.

## **ABOUT THE LOTTERY**

Since its inception in 1970, the New Jersey Lottery (NJLottery.com) has contributed more than \$22 billion to the State in support of education and institutions. In fiscal year 2013, the Lottery's contribution was more than \$1 billion. Among its beneficiaries are: veterans homes, colleges and universities, school nutrition programs, homes for the developmentally disabled, psychiatric hospitals, higher education scholarship programs and the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf.

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New Jersey Lottery • PO Box 041 • Trenton, NJ 08625 • NJLottery.com  
If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call 1-800-GAMBLER.

